

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

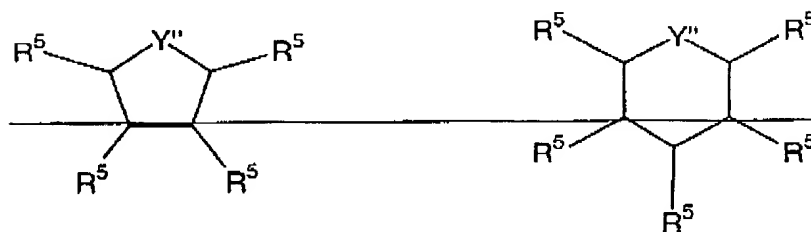
This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A clear or translucent, ~~[[stable]]~~ liquid fabric softener composition comprising:

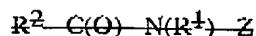
- (A) from about 2% to about 80% by weight of the composition of fabric softener;
- (B) at least an effective level of principal solvent having a ClogP of from about -2.0 to about 2.6 to provide ~~[[a]]~~ the clear or translucent composition;
- (C) from ~~[[2%]]~~ 3.56 to about 10% by weight of the composition of electrolyte, ~~[[;]]~~
- (D) ~~optionally, from 0% to about 15% by weight of the composition of phase stabilizer selected from the group consisting of:~~

- ~~(1) nonionic surfactants derived from saturated and/or unsaturated primary, secondary, and/or branched, amine, amide, amino oxide, fatty alcohol, fatty acid, alkyl phenol, and/or alkyl aryl carboxylic acid compounds having from about 6 to about 22 carbon atoms in a hydrophobic chain, wherein at least one active hydrogen of said compounds is ethoxylated with ≤ 50 ethylene oxide moieties to provide an HLB of from about 8 to about 20;~~
- ~~(2) nonionic surfactants with bulky head groups selected from:~~
 - ~~(a) — surfactants having the formulas:~~



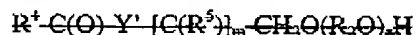
~~wherein Y'' = N or O; and each R⁵ is selected independently from the following: H, OH, (CH₂)_xCH₃, O(OR³)_z, H, OR⁴, OC(O)R⁴, and CH(CH₂(OR³))_z, H, CH₂(OR³)_z, C(O)R⁴, wherein R⁴ is selected from the group consisting of saturated or unsaturated, primary, secondary or branched chain alkyl or alkyl aryl hydrocarbons; said hydrocarbon chain having a length of from about 6 to about 22, wherein each R³ is selected from the following groups or combinations of the following groups: (CH₂)_n and/or —CH(CH₂)CH₂— wherein n is from 1 to 4; and wherein x is from 0 to about 3, and z, z', and z'' are from about 5 to about 20;~~

- ~~(b) polyhydroxy fatty acid amide surfactants of the formula:~~



wherein: each R^1 is H, C_1 - C_4 -hydrocarbyl, C_1 - C_4 -alkoxyalkyl, or hydroxyalkyl; R^2 is a C_5 - C_{24} -hydrocarbyl moiety; and each Z is a polyhydroxyhydrocarbyl moiety having a linear hydrocarbyl chain with at least 3 hydroxyls directly connected to the chain, or an ethoxylated derivative thereof;

(c) — surfactants having the formula

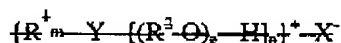


wherein R^1 is selected from the group consisting of saturated or unsaturated, primary, secondary or branched chain alkyl or alkyl aryl hydrocarbons; said hydrocarbon chain having a length of from about 6 to about 22; Y is selected from the following groups: O; N(A); and mixtures thereof; and A is selected from the following groups: H; R^1 ; $(R^2O)_x$ H; $(CH_2)_xCH_3$; phenyl, or substituted aryl, wherein x is from 0 to about 3 and total z is from about 5 to about 30; each R^2 is selected from the following groups or combinations of the following groups: $(CH_2)_n$ wherein n is from about 1 to about 4 and/or $[CH(CH_2)CH_2]$; each R^5 is selected from the following groups: OH; and $O(R^2O)_x$ H; and m is from about 2 to about 4; and

(3) mixtures thereof; surfactant complexes formed by one surfactant ion being neutralized with surfactant ion of opposite charge or an electrolyte ion that is suitable for reducing dilution viscosity;

(4) block copolymer surfactants comprising polyethylene oxide moieties and propylene oxide moieties;

(5) cationic surfactants having the formula:



wherein R^1 is selected from the group consisting of saturated or unsaturated, primary, secondary or branched chain alkyl or alkyl aryl hydrocarbons; said hydrocarbon chain having from about 6 to about 22 carbon atoms; each R^3 is selected from the following groups or combinations of the following groups: $(CH_2)_n$ and/or $[CH(CH_2)CH_2]$; Y is selected from the following groups: $N^+(A)_q$; $(CH_2)_n-N^+(A)_q$; B $(CH_2)_n-N^+(A)_q$; (phenyl) $N^+(A)_q$; (B phenyl) $N^+(A)_q$; with n being from about 1 to about 4, wherein each A is independently selected from the following groups: H; C_{1-5} -alkyl; R^1 ; $(R^2O)_x$ H; $(CH_2)_xCH_3$; phenyl, and substituted aryl; where x is from 0 to about 3; and each B is selected from the following groups: O; NA; NA_x ; $C(O)O$; and $C(O)N(A)$; wherein R^2 is defined as hereinbefore; $q=1$ or 2; $m+p+q=4$; total z per molecule is from about 3 to about 50; and X^+ is

~~an anion which is compatible with fabric softener actives and adjunct ingredients;~~
~~and~~
~~(6) mixtures thereof;~~

~~—(E)—optionally, from 0 to about 15% perfume; and~~

~~(F)—the balance water wherein said electrolyte and said phase stabilizer, when present, provide at least one improvement selected from: lower dilution viscosity; the same, or better, stability with less principal solvent; and/or the use of principal solvents with a ClogP outside the range of from about 0.15 to about 0.64.~~

Claims 2-11 (Canceled).

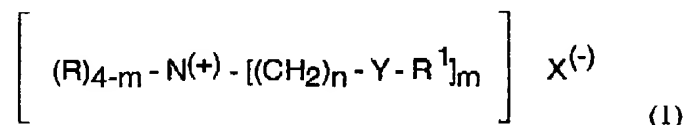
12. (Currently Amended) The composition of Claim 1 wherein said fabric softener is present at a level of from about 13% to about 75% and has a phase transition temperature of less than about 35°C; and said principal solvent is present at a level of from about 1% to about 25% by weight of the composition and has a ClogP of from about -1 to about 1.6; ~~and the level of said electrolyte is from about 0.75% to about 2.5% by weight of the composition.~~

13. (Currently Amended) The composition of Claim 12 wherein said fabric softener has a phase transition temperature of less than about 20°C; and said principal solvent is present at a level of from about 3% to about 8% by weight of the composition and has a ClogP of from about -1 to about 1; ~~and the level of said electrolyte is from about 1% to about 2% by weight of the composition.~~

14. (Previously presented) The composition of Claim 13 wherein said fabric softener has a phase transition temperature of less than about 10°C.

15. (Currently Amended) The composition of Claim 1 wherein said fabric softener is biodegradable softener active selected from the group consisting of:

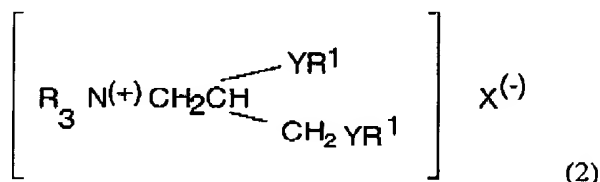
(1) a ~~[[compounds]]~~ compound having the formula:



wherein each R substituent is hydrogen or short chain C₁-C₆ alkyl or hydroxyalkyl group, benzyl, or mixtures thereof; each m is 2 or 3; each n is from

1 to about 4; each Y is -O-(O)C-, -C(O)-O-, -NR-C(O)-, or -C(O)-NR-; each R¹ is a hydrocarbyl, or substituted hydrocarbyl, group, the sum of carbons in each R¹, plus one when Y is -O-(O)C-, being C₁₂-C₂₂; the average Iodine Value of the parent fatty acid of the R¹ group being from about 40 to about 140; and wherein the counterion, X⁻ is any softener-compatible anion;

2. **[[softener]] a compound** having the formula:

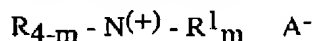


wherein each Y, R, R¹, and X⁽⁻⁾ have the same meanings as before; and

3. mixtures thereof.

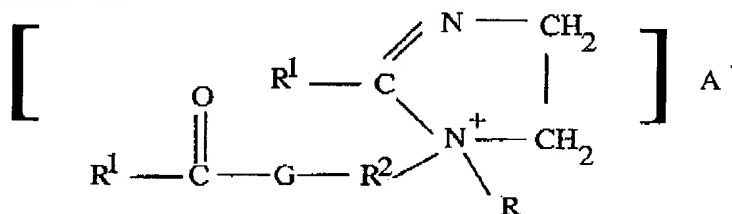
16. (Currently Amended) The composition of Claim 1 wherein said fabric softener is selected from the group consisting of:

- (1) a compound [[softener]] having the formula:



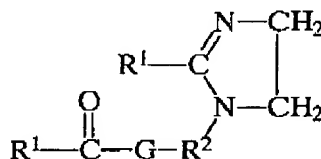
wherein each m is 2 or 3, each R¹ is a C₆-C₂₂, but no more than one being less than about C₁₂ and then the other is at least about I6, hydrocarbyl, or substituted hydrocarbyl substituent, where the Iodine Value is from about 70 to about 140 with a cis/trans ratio of from about 1:1 to about 50:1; each R is H or a short chain C₁-C₆ alkyl or hydroxyalkyl group, group, benzyl, or (R² O)₀₋₄H wherein R² is a C₁₋₆ alkylene group; and A⁻ is a softener compatible anion;

- (2) **a compound** **[[softener]]** having the formula:



wherein each R, R¹, and A⁻ have the definitions given above; each R² is a C₁₋₆ alkylene group; and G is an oxygen atom or an -NR- group;

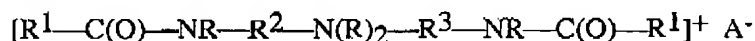
- (3) **a compound** **[[softener]]** having the formula:



wherein R^1 , R^2 and G are defined as above;

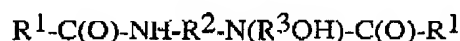
(4) reaction products of substantially unsaturated and/or branched chain higher fatty acids with dialkylenetriamines in, e.g., a molecular ratio of about 2:1;

(5) **a compound** [[softener]] having the formula:



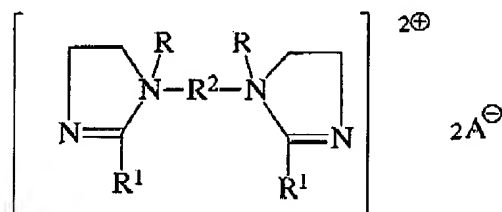
wherein R , R^1 , R^2 , R^3 and A^- are defined as above;

(6) the reaction product of substantially unsaturated and/or branched chain higher fatty acid with hydroxyalkylalkylenediamines in a molecular ratio of about 2:1, said reaction products containing compounds of the formula:



wherein R^1 , R^2 and R^3 are defined as above;

(7) **a compound** [[softener]] having the formula:

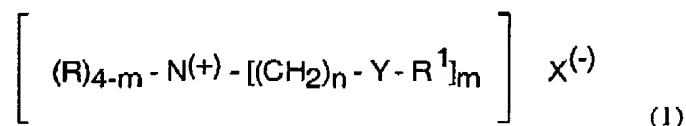


wherein R , R^1 , R^2 , and A^- are defined as above; and

(8) mixtures thereof;

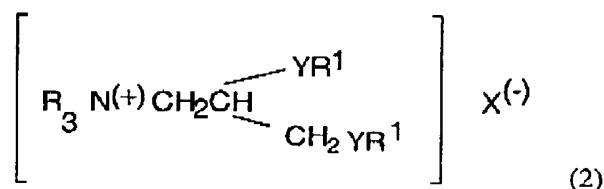
17. (Currently Amended) The composition of Claim 1 wherein said fabric softener is selected from the group consisting of:

(1) **a compound** [[compounds]] having the formula:



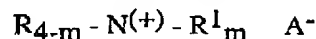
wherein each R substituent is hydrogen or short chain C_1 - C_6 alkyl or hydroxyalkyl group, benzyl, or mixtures thereof; each m is 2 or 3; each n is from 1 to about 4; each Y is $-O-(O)C-$, or $-C(O)-O-$; each R^1 is a hydrocarbyl, or substituted hydrocarbyl, group, the sum of carbons in each R^1 , plus one when Y is $-O-(O)C-$, being C_{12} - C_{22} ; the average Iodine Value of the parent fatty acid of the R^1 group being from about 40 to about 140; and wherein the counterion, X^- is any softener-compatible anion;

2. **a compound** [[softener]] having the formula:



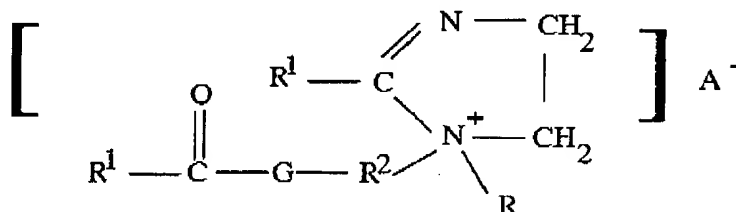
wherein each Y, R, R¹, and X⁽⁻⁾ have the same meanings as before;

3. **a compound** [[softener]] having the formula:



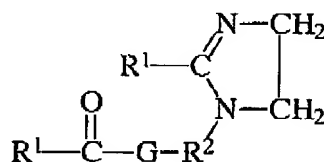
wherein each m is 2 or 3, each R¹ is a C₆-C₂₂, but no more than one being less than about C₁₂ and then the other is at least about 16, hydrocarbyl, or substituted hydrocarbyl substituent, where the Iodine Value is from about 70 to about 140 with a cis/trans ratio of from about 1:1 to about 50:1; each R is H or a short chain C₁-C₆ alkyl or hydroxyalkyl group, group, benzyl, or (R²O)₀₋₄H wherein R² is a C₁₋₆ alkylene group; and A⁻ is a softener compatible anion;

4. **a compound** [[softener]] having the formula:



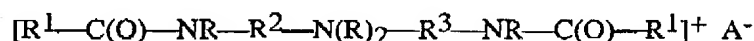
wherein each R, R¹, and A⁻ have the definitions given above; each R² is a C₁₋₆ alkylene group; and G is an oxygen atom or an -NR- group;

5. **a compound** [[softener]] having the formula:



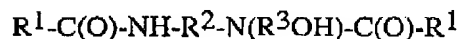
wherein R¹, R² and G are defined as above;

6. reaction products of substantially unsaturated and/or branched chain higher fatty acids with dialkylenetriamines in, e.g., a molecular ratio of about 2:1;
7. **a compound** [[softener]] having the formula:



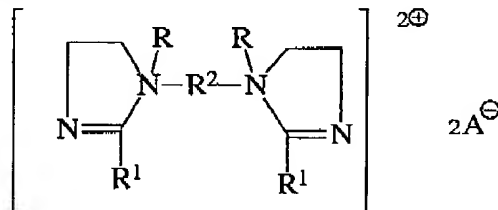
wherein R, R¹, R², R³ and A⁻ are defined as above;

8. a [[the]] reaction product of substantially unsaturated and/or branched chain higher fatty acid with hydroxyalkylalkylendiamines in a molecular ratio of about 2:1, said reaction products containing compounds of the formula:



wherein R¹, R² and R³ are defined as above;

9. a compound [[softener]] having the formula:



wherein R, R¹, R², and A⁻ are defined as above; and

10. mixtures thereof.

18. (Previously presented) The composition of Claim 1 wherein said principal solvent has a ClogP of from about -2 to less than 0.15.

19. (Previously presented) The composition of Claim 18 wherein said principal solvent has a ClogP of from about -1.7 to less than 0.15.

20. (Previously presented) The composition of Claim 19 wherein said principal solvent has a ClogP of from about -1 to less than 0.15.

21. (Previously presented) The composition of Claim 1 wherein said principal solvent has a ClogP of from more than 0.64 to about 2.6.

22. (Previously presented) The composition of Claim 21 wherein said principal solvent has a ClogP of from more than 1 to about 2.6.

23. (Previously presented) The composition of Claim 21 wherein said principal solvent has a ClogP of from more than 0.64 to about 1.6.

24. (Previously presented) The composition of Claim 21 wherein said principal solvent has a ClogP of from more than 1 to about 1.6.

25. (Previously presented) The composition of Claim 1 wherein said electrolyte is selected from the group consisting of: MgI_2 , MgBr_2 , MgCl_2 , $\text{Mg}(\text{NO}_3)_2$, $\text{Mg}_3(\text{PO}_4)_2$, $\text{Mg}_2\text{P}_2\text{O}_7$, MgSO_4 , magnesium silicate, NaI , NaBr , NaCl , NaF , $\text{Na}_3(\text{PO}_4)$, NaSO_3 , Na_2SO_4 , Na_2SO_3 , NaNO_3 , NaIO_3 , $\text{Na}(\text{PO}_4)_3$, $\text{Na}_4\text{P}_2\text{O}_7$, sodium silicate, sodium metasilicate, sodium tetrachloroaluminate, sodium tripolyphosphate, $\text{Na}_2\text{Si}_3\text{O}_7$, sodium zirconate, CaF_2 , CaCl_2 , CaBr_2 , CaI_2 , CaSO_4 , $\text{Ca}(\text{NO}_3)_2$, KI , KBr , KCl , KF , KNO_3 , KIO_3 , K_2SO_4 , K_2SO_3 , $\text{K}(\text{PO}_4)_3$, $\text{K}_4(\text{P}_2\text{O}_7)$, potassium pyrosulfate, potassium pyrosulfite, LiI , LiBr , LiCl , LiF , LiNO_3 , AlF_3 , AlCl_3 , AlBr_3 , AlI_3 , $\text{Al}_2(\text{SO}_4)_3$, $\text{Al}(\text{PO}_4)_3$, $\text{Al}(\text{NO}_3)_3$, aluminum silicate, hydrates of these salts, salts with mixed sodium, potassium, magnesium and/or calcium cations, and mixtures thereof.

26. (Currently Amended) The composition of Claim 1 [[wherein said]] **further comprising a** phase stabilizer [[is]] **comprising a** nonionic surfactant derived from saturated and/or unsaturated primary, secondary, and/or branched, amine, amide, amine-oxide, fatty alcohol, fatty acid, alkyl phenol, and/or alkyl aryl carboxylic acid [[compounds]] **compound**, each having from about 6 to about 22 carbon atoms in an alkyl or alkylene chain, wherein at least one active hydrogen of said compound is ethoxylated with ≤ 30 ethylene oxide moieties to provide an HLB of from about 8 to about 20.

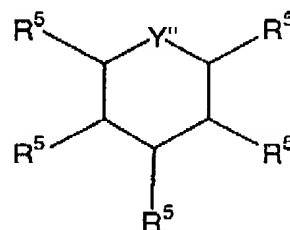
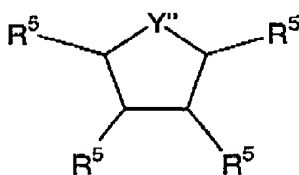
27. (Previously presented) The composition of Claim 26 wherein said compound has from about 8 to about 18 carbon atoms in the alkyl or alkenyl chain and contains from about 5 to about 15 of said ethylene oxide moieties to provide an HLB of from about 10 to about 18.

28. (Previously presented) The composition of Claim 27 wherein said compound contains from about 8 to about 12 of said ethylene oxide moieties to provide an HLB of from about 11 to about 15.

29. (Currently Amended) The composition of Claim 1 [[wherein said]] **further comprising a** phase stabilizer [[comprises]] **comprising a** nonionic [[surfactants]]

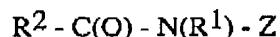
surfactant, wherein said surfactant comprises a substantial head group [[with substantial head groups]] selected from:

- a. a surfactant having either one of the following formulas: [[surfactants having the formulas:]]



wherein Y'' = N or O; and each R⁵ is selected independently from the following: -H, -OH, -(CH₂)_xCH₃, -O(OR²)_x-H, -OR¹, -OC(O)R¹, and -CH(CH₂-(OR²)_x-H)-CH₂-(OR²)_x-C(O)R¹, x and R¹ are as defined above and z, z', and z'' is from about 5 to about 20;

- b. a polyhydroxy fatty acid amide [[surfactants]] surfactant of the formula:



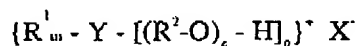
wherein: each R¹ is H, C₁-C₄ hydrocarbyl, C₁-C₄ alkoxyalkyl, or hydroxyalkyl; R² is a C₅-C₂₁ hydrocarbyl moiety; and each Z is a polyhydroxyhydrocarbyl moiety having a linear hydrocarbyl chain with at least 3 hydroxyls directly connected to the chain, or an ethoxylated derivative thereof; and

- c. mixtures thereof;

30. (Currently Amended) The composition of Claim 1 [[wherein said]] further comprising a phase stabilizer [[comprises]] that comprises a surfactant complex formed by one surfactant ion being neutralized with surfactant ion of opposite charge or an electrolyte ion that is suitable for reducing dilution viscosity.

31. (Curently Amended) The composition of Claim 1 [[wherein said]] further comprising a phase stabilizer [[comprises]] that comprises a block copolymer surfactant comprising a polyethylene oxide[[moieties]] moiety and a propylene oxide [[moieties]] moiety.

32. (Currently Amended) The composition of Claim 1 [[wherein said]] **further comprising a phase stabilizer** [[comprises]] **that comprises a cationic** [[surfactants]] **surfactant** having the formula:



wherein R^1 is selected from the group consisting of saturated or unsaturated, primary, secondary or branched chain alkyl or alkyl-aryl hydrocarbons; said hydrocarbon chain having from about 6 to about 22 carbon atoms; each R^2 is selected from the following groups or combinations of the following groups: $-(CH_2)_n-$ and/or $-[CH(CH_3)CH_2]-$; Y is selected from the following groups: $= N^+-(A)_q$; $-(CH_2)_n-N^+-(A)_q$; $-B-(CH_2)_n-N^+-(A)_2$; $-(phenyl)-N^+-(A)_q$; $-(B-phenyl)-N^+-(A)_q$; with n being from about 1 to about 4, wherein each A is independently selected from the following groups: H; C_{1-5} alkyl; R^1 ; $-(R^3O)_x-H$; $-(CH_2)_xCH_3$; phenyl, and substituted aryl; where $0 \leq x \leq$ about 3; and each B is selected from the following groups: $-O-$; $-NA-$; $-NA_2$; $-C(O)O-$; and $-C(O)N(A)-$; , m is 1 or 2, p is 1 or 2, q is 1 or 2, and $m + p + q = 4$; total z per molecule is from about 3 to about 50; and X^- is an anion which is compatible with fabric softener actives and adjunct ingredients.

33. (Previously presented) The composition of Claim 32 wherein R^1 is an alkyl group which contains from about 8 to about 22 carbon atoms; R^2 is $-(CH_2)_n-$ where $n = 2$; total z = from about 3 to about 20; $p = 2$; Y is $= N^+-(A)_q$ wherein A is a C_{1-4} alkyl group and q is one.

34. (Previously presented) The composition of Claim 33 wherein R^1 is an alkyl group which contains from about 12 to about 18 carbon atoms; total z = from about 5 to about 16; A is a C_2 alkyl group and X is ethyl sulfate.

35. (Currently Amended) The composition of Claim 1 comprising: principal solvent having a ClogP of less than 0.15 or more than 0.64 to provide clarity or translucency in the composition, the level being selected so that the clarity and/or translucency is improved in the presence of [[an effective amount of]] **said** electrolyte.

36. (Currently Amended) The composition of Claim 1 comprising: ~~at least an effective level of principal solvent having a ClogP of from about 2.0 to about 2.6 and from an effective level up to about 10% by weight of the composition of electrolyte to provide~~ [[a]] **the** composition having a G' of ≤ 20 Pa and a G'' of ≤ 6 Pa wherein G' and G'' are measured

on dilute solutions with maximum viscosity, the composition having higher G' and G'' without said electrolyte being present.

37. (Currently Amended) The composition of Claim 36 wherein G' and G'' are measured over a strain range of $[[0.1 - 1.0]]$ 0.1 - 1.0.

38. (Currently Amended) The composition of Claim 1 comprising~~[[the]]~~ the principal solvent ~~having a ClogP of from about -2.0 to about 2.6~~ at a level that would not provide a stable composition in the absence of said electrolyte and/or ~~[[said]]~~ a phase stabilizer.

39. (Currently Amended) The composition of Claim 1 ~~[[wherein the]]~~ further comprising a phase stabilizer, wherein said phase stabilizer is derived from a C₈-C₁₈ fatty alcohol ethoxylated with from about 5 to about 15 moles of ethylene oxide.

40. (Currently Amended) The composition of Claim 1 wherein said composition comprises from about $[[2.2\%]]$ 4% to about 10%, by weight of said composition, of said electrolyte.

41. (Previously Presented) The composition of Claim 1 wherein said principal solvent has a ClogP of from about -2.0 to less than 0.15 or from more than 0.64 to about 2.6.

42. (Previously Presented) The composition of Claim 1 wherein said composition comprises no more than about 14.65%, by weight of said composition, of said principal solvent.